any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4, wherein said protein has 90% or greater identity to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 4;

(b) a protein encoded by a DNA that hybridizes with a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said protein has 90% or greater identity to SEQ ID NOS 2, 3, or 4;

(c) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. An antibody against the C-terminal 14 amino acids having the amino acid sequence of Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys of the protein of claim 2.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. A ~~partial peptide~~ Peptide fragment of the protein of claim 2, wherein the ~~partial peptide~~ fragment comprises the C-terminal 14 amino acids having the amino acid sequence of ~~Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys~~ SEQ ID NO:9.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. A polynucleotide C-terminal 14 amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 having the amino acid sequence of Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys, or its complementary strand.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

~~35~~ 17. A method for screening a compound that binds to the protein of claim ~~2~~, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a test sample with the protein or a ~~partial peptide~~ Peptide fragment SEQ ID NO:9 thereof comprising the C-terminal 14 amino acids having the amino acid sequence of ~~Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys~~,

(b) detecting the binding activity between the test sample and the protein or the ~~partial peptide~~ Peptide fragment thereof, and

(c) selecting a compound that has an activity to bind to the protein or the ~~partial peptide~~ Peptide fragment thereof.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. A ~~compound~~ that binds to the C-terminal 14 amino acids having the amino acid sequence of ~~Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys~~ SEQ ID NO:9 of the protein of claim 2.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. A compound that binds to the C-terminal 14 amino acids having the amino acid sequence of Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys and has activity to promote or inhibit peptidase activity of the protein of claim 2.

Please amend claim 26 as follows:

~~26~~ 13. The kit of claim ~~25~~ 12, wherein said substrate is brain APP.

Please add the following new claims: